

Message Text

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62

ACTION NEA-16

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RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 EB-11 AID-20 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 H-03 IO-14 SS-20 NSC-07 DRC-01 /113 W

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R 051450Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2501

INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 8969

NEA FOR AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN

USIA FOR INA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EAID IN US

SUBJECT: INDIAN PRESS PLAY HOUSE ACTION ON IDA

BEGIN SUMMARY: MOST INITIAL REPORTS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ACTION ON REPLENISHMENT OF IDA FUNDS GAVE NO MENTION OF THE LONG AMENDMENT AND THE POSSIBLE EFFECT OF IT ON INDIA. IN THE SECOND DAY OF COVERAGE PAPERS PUBLISHED INTERPRETATIVE AND MORE DETAILED DESPATCHES. END SUMMARY.

1. MOST JULY 4 ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPERS PUBLISHED SIMILAR REPORTS ON THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VOTE TO REPLENISH IDA FUNDS. IN A WASHINGTON ARTICLE BY T.V. PARASURAM ONLY THE INDIAN EXPRESS COVERED ASPECTS OF THE LONG AMENDMENT. THIS WOULD PREVENT THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE AT THE IDA EXECUTIVE BOARD SESSIONS FROM VOTING FOR LOANS TO COUNTRIES WITH NUCLEAR CAPABILITY WHICH HAVE NOT SIGNED THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY.

2. JULY 5 INDIAN EXPRESS RUNS FOLLOW-UP STORY BY PARASURAM CARRIED ALSO BY FINANCIAL EXPRESS. ATTRIBUTING WASHINGTON SOURCES THE DESPATCH SAYS THE LONG AMENDMENT IS BEING GIVEN ONLY A 50-50 CHANCE OF SURVIVAL IN THE HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE THOUGH MUCH UNCLASSIFIED

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WILL DEPEND ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S ATTITUDE WHICH TO DATE HAS BEEN

VERY LUKEWARM EITHER IN CRITICISING OR DEFENDING INDIA.

3. PARASURAM'S ARTICLE ALLEGES THAT THE U.S. MUST HAVE THE SUPPORT OF AT LEAST THREE OTHER COUNTRIES TO DENY INDIA IDA CREDITS. STORY ALSO DETAILS THE STATEMENT OF PURPOSE BY REPRESENTATIVE LONG TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT HIS AMENDMENT WOULD INSURE THE EXPRESSION OF A CONGRESSIONAL VIEW RATHER THAN DENYING INDIA CREDITS.

4. THE PARASURAM ARTICLE CONTINUES WITH REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION FOOT DRAGGING ON AID TO INDIA WHICH HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION. HE RECOUNTS APPROPRIATION OF 75 MILLION DOLLARS IN AID LAST YEAR WHICH THIS SPRING HAD ALREADY BEEN SPENT OR DIVERTED LEAVING INDIA WITH OFFER OF JUST ONE MILLION DOLLARS IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. "INDIA," HE WRITES, "WAS NOT INTERESTED IN TOKENISM."

5. INDIAN EXPRESS ARTICLE, WINDS UP ON DEBT RESCHEDULING ABOUT WHICH IT SAYS THE ADMINISTRATION "COULD HAVE BEEN MORE COOPERATIVE IF IT WISHED." PARASURAM REPORTS THE WORLD BANK'S RECOMMENDATION OF 64 MILLION IN RESCHEDULING AND U.S. OFFER OF 29 MILLION. "THE AID RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INDIA AND THE U.S., "CONCLUDES THE DESPATCH IS "CERTAINLY UNDERGOING A CHANGE."

6. HINDUSTAN TIMES JULY 5, ALSO RAN A MORE COMPREHENSIVE ITEM ON IDA WITH A FRONT PAGE ARTICLE FROM WASHINGTON BY KRISHAN BHATIA HEADLINED "SECONDS THOUGHTS ON IDA LOAN." BHATIA REPORTS THAT INFORMED OBSERVERS BELIEVE THE LEGISLATIVE MOVES AGAINST INDIA BY THE U.S. CONGRESS MAY SOON BE RESCINDED. SCHNEIDER

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